

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow, that was a long term and this is a long newsletter to match, but there are lots of lovely things to report on and some really useful information. It might be worth putting the kettle on!

It has been lovely to have a full term with no disruptions. I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone for being so supportive of the school during this term. I know we have had to change things in line with government guidelines, but the way you adapt to these changes helps us so much.

This term has seen so many events happening in and out of school. One of our strategic development points is to allow the children the opportunity to 'live life in all its fullness'. I feel we have done this really well, whether it has been the Key Stage 2 trip to York City with a spot of ten pin bowling, the Year 6's going on residential or even having a whole school trip to the panto—oh yes we did! It has been a pleasure to take our children out or invite people in and I am always so proud of the way our children represent our school.

It was fantastic to see so many of you at our Christmas celebrations over the last 2 weeks. It meant a lot to the children to have a live audience to perform to and didn't they do well!

Also, a massive thank you to all the staff this term. Despite everything, they have been uber professional and always put the children at the centre of all they do. They continue to have high expectations for your children and the behaviours for learning around the school are fantastic. The staff are also so supportive of each other and I know how much they appreciate your support.

Over the next term we head into the OFSTED window. This will give us the chance to show what a special place we are, where children live life in all its fullness. Parents will be sent a link to a survey on parent view. I have checked and we have had 1 entry this year so far. I would really appreciate it if you could fill in this questionnaire. It is very simple and will not take you long. It will also help us to evaluate our offering. The link is <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views/survey/173531>

Fingers crossed for a smooth start to next term, if there are any changes in line with government guidance I will be touch as soon as I can.

I was reflecting on the impact of the last 2 years with the CEO of Ebor Academy Trust the other day and I explained what a pleasure it is to work in this school and how proud I am to be part of this village and the surrounding villages. I truly do love my job and feel very fortunate to be working in this very special community.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Justin Reeve

Wow hasn't this term gone quickly. One minute we were starting in September and all of a sudden it's Christmas.

What has been amazing this term has been the seamless way that the school came back together as whole and to see the way the children all settled back to normal routine. It was like business as usual from day one, and it has been so lovely to see the whole school celebrating our key Autumn Term moments, culminating in our recent wonderful Nativity and Key Stage 2 Concerts in church. Didn't the children do well. You must all be so proud.

The Governing Body has relished being back together and able to meet together in person. We are cracking on with monitoring and our key and liaison roles and have loved being able to talk to the children and hear their voice. Our new Governors have settled quickly and it has also been great to see our new staff members get into their stride, thanks to the support from mentors, the team and our awesome Head and Senior Leaders.

In our once again uncertain world it is so lovely to see our school community thriving, with happy smiling children, supportive parents, carers and Governors and professional and dedicated staff leading the way. Go Team Tockwith!

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Governors to wish you all a happy family filled Christmas and a peaceful and hopeful New Year.

Sue Corbett (Chair of Governors)

Nativity

Key Stage 1 and Reception treated us to 4 fantastic renditions of the Wiggly Nativity at the Church of the Epiphany. They performed to the school, TickTocks and parents and grandparents and they did such an amazing job. There was singing, dancing, acting and even a procession of animals down the aisle. I must say the children did exceptionally well considering they have not performed on a stage for a long time and the songs are still going around my head! We were even treated to 3 solo performances. Thank you so much to the teaching team who worked together so well to produce such a well polished play. Your enthusiasm certainly rubbed off on the children as they looked like they were having an amazing time performing. Thank you so much also to the church team for making sure the church was warm for the performances and the practices before.

Thank you so much for joining us for a very special occasion.



Key Stage 2 Christmas Production

Thank you so much to Key stage 2 for presenting the story of Babushka to us this week. It was a wonderful performance involving all classes. Considering these children have not sung or acted in church for quite a while they were amazing. Standing at the back of the church, I felt so proud of our children whilst also recognising how lucky we are to perform in such a lovely church. We were very fortunate to be treated to some fantastic solos by our children. I say it time and time again, these children amaze me, it takes such courage and confidence in their own ability to do it and they should take a bow!

Thank you to everyone who came to see one of the 4 performances and the donations to the church collection which have really helped to pay for all the heating and electricity we have used over the last few weeks!! Also, a massive thank you to our teaching team for producing and directing such a polished and enjoyable performance.



Panto

The whole school to panto in Leeds—why not we said! 12 months later than originally planned, we made our way to the Leeds Carriageworks and what a treat it was. It was so lovely to see the children fully immersed in the performance, sharing the fantastic experience with their buddies. The children were brilliantly behaved and a credit to the school. Thank you to everyone, especially Mrs Spurr and Mrs Cook for sorting all of the arrangements and Mr Goodacre for completing a rather complicated risk assessment.



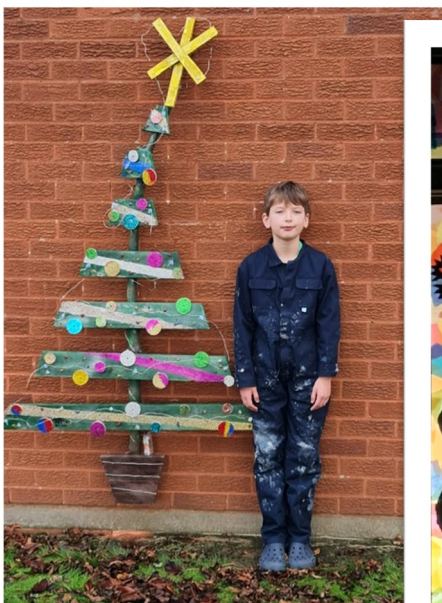
The pantomime on the 15th of December 2021 at Carriageworks Leeds was really interactive and fun for all ages. It was a good experience for the receptions and an amazing bonding time with their buddy. They also could have a bit of independence not being with their parents or carers in a big city. Wishy washy and his mum were very funny and made a lot of people laugh. The buddies were very tired but had a very good time as did us all. Not only was it good for little one but it had some more mature jokes too. The singing and dancing was also amazing.

Sam and Ralph Year 6

Living advent

For those of you who have managed to walk past our school you will have seen our living advent display at the front of the school. These lovely displays were completed by Reception, Years 1/2, 3/4 and 5/6. Well done to all the village who participated and especially to the church for their amazing light show.

Also, a big thank you to Tommy in Year 5 who has produced his very own Christmas tree which has been nailed to our wall at the front of the school. I am sure you will agree this is a fantastic piece of art work and it is a pleasure to display on the front of our building. Same time next year Tommy?!



Christmas Dinner

... and what a treat it was. Thank you so much to Mrs Hobson and team for cooking our fantastic Christmas dinner. It was very tasty and had all the trimmings.



Christingle

It is that time of the year and Janet Marriner arrived from the church with a lot of oranges. Who better to prepare the oranges for Christingle than the Year 5's and 6's. Each child and member of staff in school be receiving one. I love this tradition we have at school and further reinforces the excellent link we have with our church.



Reading at Home

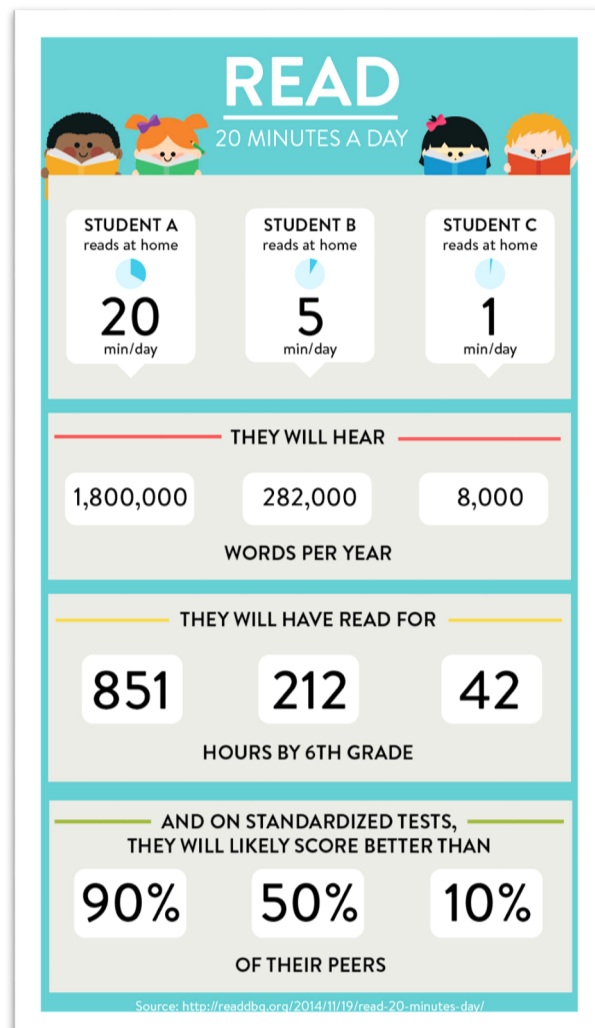
'Learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out what's printed on the page. Through hearing stories, children are exposed to a wide range of words. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. It's important for them to understand how stories work too. Even if your child doesn't understand every word, they'll hear new sounds, words and phrases which they can then try out, copying what they have heard.'
Pearson Education

For those children who are reluctant to read, here are some ideas to try at home:

- Read out loud. Both children and adults enjoy stories being read to them. By listening to stories, children are able to enjoy plot and description, listen to intonation to hear where punctuation can be used and are exposed to new language.
- Play games which involve reading from a card. Orchard Toys have a great variety for younger children: <https://www.orchardtoys.com/> For older children, Articulate, Taboo or Quiz games all encourage reading.
- Write notes or create treasure hunt clues in the house for children to read and find a reward at the end. Could some Christmas presents be hidden with clues written for where they might be found?
- Audiobooks are great. While these are not a substitute for reading text, they are a good way to encourage concentration and help children immerse themselves in stories. They're also great if you're going on a journey these holidays.
- Nonfiction. Many children prefer reading nonfiction books. There is a great variety of books and magazines to suit your child's interest. 'Animal Kingdom' magazine and 'The World Almanac 5001' are good places to start.
- Model being a reader. Parents and others at home who read for pleasure set positive images and are fantastic role models for reading.
- Books as gifts. Books make great stocking fillers! Visit a bookshop and see which books your child is interested in or search for great books online: <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/>

Happy Christmas and happy reading from Mrs Perry.

PS Don't forget to swap good books with others and share your recommendations.



Maths at Home - Mr Skidmore

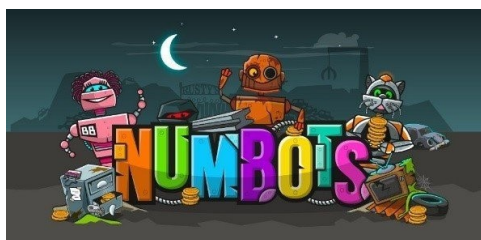
You can have a huge impact on your child's maths confidence and ability by supporting them at home in a few easy ways.

- Play board games with your children. (Number recognition, counting, adding and subtracting) More advanced games such as Junior Monopoly or Monopoly itself develop many mathematical skills.
- Counting and estimating - When you go up stairs what number will you count up in? As you come down stairs count down again. Give younger children lots of opportunities to count. How many sweets in the packet? Can we put them in to three equal groups?
- Cook and Bake - so many maths skills are involved in these activities.
- Maths on days out - How many boats can you see? How far have you thrown that stick? How many more stones do I need to make 20? Which is the tallest animal? Can you split this chocolate bar in half?

Back to basics

Remember the school has paid for your child to have a subscription to the apps for Numbots and TT Rockstars (Y2+). These are brilliant but only have impact if they are being used. See your teacher for login details if you are unsure.

The websites www.topmarks.co.uk and www.ictgames.com both have fantastic maths sections that are full of interactive games.



Little Wandle phonics

We have had a really successful first term using the Little Wandle phonics scheme. From following the scheme, the children are practicing new and familiar sounds each day and subsequently blending and reading words with confidence. Through Little Wandle, we focus on both decoding and comprehension. Children learn to read whilst being regularly exposed to visual experiences that develop their understanding of the new vocabulary. It has been lovely to watch them flourish with their phonics and reading. Little Wandle emphasises a love of reading for pleasure and we are delighted to see our children enjoying books so much this year. Miss Cunningham



Grapheme chart															Phase 2 and 3				
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Staff

Congratulations to Miss Reynolds who gave birth to the lovely Elodie at the start of November. We have all had the chance meet them both at the Christmas dinner and they both looked very well indeed. We are all delighted for Zoe and her lovely family.



Mrs Starr

Not only is Mrs Starr our resident arts expert who produces the most amazing displays at school, she is also set up the Wetherby Wombles. This is a group of over 460 members who give up their time to eliminate litter from Wetherby.

Because of the incredible work, she has done she was nominated to be Wetherby Townsperson of the Year—what an honour.

If you want to find out anymore about the Wombles there is a Wetherby Wombles group on Facebook.

Well done Mrs Starr, we are very proud of you.



York Dance Festival

It was a delight to take the year 4's to the dance festival this year. The children worked incredibly hard for 6 weeks on the dance and put on a performance to be proud of. The performance took place at York University, the theme this year being "The Power Of Together". We wanted the dance to reflect the family we are here at Tock-with and it sure did! The children were confident and professional throughout rehearsals and on the day. They have been amazing role models to the younger members of our school, my receptions have asked to watch the dance most days and wanted to learn the dance just like the year 4's. Well done to you all, we are all so proud of you, especially myself.

Miss Kilvington



Bikeability

At the beginning of the half term, Year 5 were given the opportunity to access Bikeability training. The children spent two days on roads around the village learning how to use their local roads safely, how to spot potential dangers and the importance of being seen when you are cycling on the road. It was great to see an initial increase in the number of children using their bikes to get to school. We look forward to seeing more children cycling to school in their brand new high visibility jackets as the daylight hours gradually increase through January and February.

Mr White

School Council

The School Council have been very active this term. They had their first ECO meeting with our local community ECO council. They looked at ways the school can become more ECO friendly. They invited all the children around the school to share ideas on how we can make our environment better. They have organised Children In Need and Green Jumper Day, and bravely taken control of two school assemblies to share what they found out with the rest of the school.

Children in need raised awareness of children who are in great need of being helped and supported through difficult and challenging times.

Money raised went to help Children in Need. We raised just under £200 which is fantastic.

Green jumper day saw them raise awareness of being green. Switching off lights, not to keep the tap running, walking to school and spending less time on their devices at home.

They Children led a donation drive of old clothes for charity, food which went to the local food bank and toys which were donated to North Yorkshire's The Reuse Santa Appeal.

Mrs Poole and Mrs Dutton are immensely proud of their dedication and effort. Their willingness to engage with their classmates and the school in helping to provide a better place for all to learn, play and enjoy.



Rocks and Pops in Tockwith

This week we had the pleasure of watching our year 6 band who were amazing. They performed 3 songs for us and one was an original that they wrote themselves—wow!!

All of the children loved it and clapped along. Well done to Imogen, Joe, Lauren, Florrie, and Sam, you were brilliant. Mr Crilley teaches keyboard, electric guitar, drums and singing across the school and they graduate to becoming a band. It is a provision I am very proud of at our school and gives the children so many skills and not just in music.

Mr Crilley has a full roster at the moment but will let you know when he has spaces for new junior rockstars.



I like to be in the school band because I have been able to learn new skills with an instrument that I never dreamed of mastering and now I can with the help of my band and my band Teacher Mr Crilly. He has helped me learn guitar since year 5 and helped our band write our own song.

Joe C - guitar.

Sports at Tockwith

As a school, we prepare children for the future. Teaching our pupils how to live a healthy lifestyle is a part of this. We have used our PE Premium funds for a number of projects. We have introduced new games to play at break/lunch times. There are four square and kanjam. In addition, we have purchased new kitchen equipment to teach our pupils about healthy eating.



MrG @PrimaryMrG · 8 Dec

The children loving four square and kanjam at break times. Bringing a bit of @CampScatico to @Tockwithcofe



Key Stage 2 trip

It was a pleasure and honour to take KS2 on a school trip hosted by the York City Foundation. Whilst there, we toured the new LNER stadium, had a coaching session on their 3G pitch and a lesson on the history of York City. The children had an excellent morning and will be gifted with a free ticket to see York City in 2022. In the afternoon, we were able to fund a trip to Hollywood Bowl. After the struggle of life during Covid, it was so lovely to see kids being kids, enjoying each other's company and having fun. Mr Goodacre



Chimp Event Educates and Entertains

Years 5 and 6 enjoyed "Professor Lightbulb", a theatrical production in York. The event was organised exclusively for Ebor Schools by The Chimp Management Company devised by Professor Steve Peters, a well being programme which Tockwith School has embraced. The programme helps teachers get the best out of children by helping them understand how their minds work to achieve maximum success.

We were really proud of our children at Tockwith for their ability to engage and participate with the event.

Wishing you all a relaxing , happy and healthy Christmas

Sarah Slack

pastoral@tockwithprimary.co.uk

From the Professor Lightbulb show, I learnt how to manage my Chimp by understanding it and telling it to not to do bad things or say bad things. At times, my Chimp can make me feel anxious but it also helps me to have fun.

I also learnt that everyone's Chimp is different and we all have our own ways of managing our Chimps. It was a great experience and it taught me a lot about myself that I didn't know.

It was a fun way to learn all about ourselves and now I have a better understanding of who I am.

Sophie and Justina



Our new lovely corridor

Over the summer holidays, we had our main corridor altered. It was ridiculously wide and groups used to work there but they were constantly interrupted and it was hard for the children to focus. Now, we have 5 pods where groups can work without being disturbed and the whole corridor looks so much better with a new carpet as well. We have also split the old ICT suite into a working space and a much needed storage space. All off these pods have been named after our long standing governors in the school so if you hear about your child working in Corbett you know what is happening!



Sex Relationships Education

Our Sex and Relationships Education policy has been updated and shared with parents through Parent Hub. Please take the time to look through its contents. If you have any questions regarding the policy and the delivery of our SRE policy, then please get in touch with the office who will pass any messages on to Mr White and the Pastoral Team. We will be in touch with Year 5 and 6's families early in the New Year to inform you of when our sessions will be taking place and to provide you with an opportunity to see the content that we cover and use within our curriculum. Mr White

Keeping children safe is everybody's responsibility

If you are worried about a child you can speak in confidence to your local children's safeguarding team on 01609 780780.

Please be aware your school's safeguarding lead is Mr Reeve and is available in school hours to discuss your concerns. The deputy is DSL is Mr White

Don't think 'What if I am wrong? Think 'What if I am right?'



Early Help in North Yorkshire

Should you wish to speak with your local NYCC Children & Families Service: Early Help in relation to a child, young person or family who may require Early Help, contact:

Early Help West—01609 534842

Early Help is not a designated team; it is the way that everyone works together to support the needs of families. The aim of Early Help is to build on people's capacity and resources to manage their own dilemmas, resolve their own difficulties and prevent further problems in the future. Early Help is the response offered by all services in North Yorkshire who are in contact with children, young people and families when an unmet need is identified as outlined in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018).

If you want any further help here is a helpful video for you:

<https://youtu.be/DaDz5eocKPs>

Attendance

It has certainly been a long term with some difficult challenges in terms of attendance but as a whole school we have done exceptionally well and that is down to you, our parents/ carers and pupils for coming to school and carrying on. The Trust are asking schools to aim for an attendance of 96% and we are pleased to say that at Tockwith we achieved **96.48%** and this includes our Covid absences so is a great result. Thank you for your continued hard work and we hope this figure will continue to go up next half term. Mrs Spurr